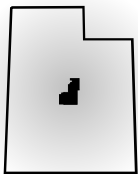


# County Trends



## Sanpete

June 2003

### A Local Economic Perspective

## There just might be light at the end of this tunnel

After several years of almost exclusively showing employment losses, Sanpete's labor market seemed to make some improvement. While other indicators don't seem to have turned the economic corner, growth in jobs is the prime gauge of local economic health.

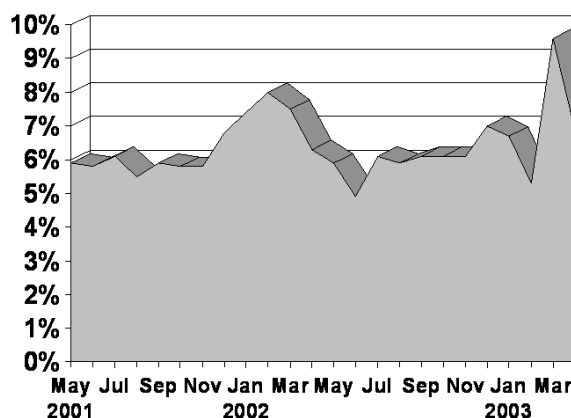
### ***Not so Big***

It's been a long time since Sanpete County has experienced any significant growth in employment. In fact, you'd have to stretch your memory back to the first quarter of 2001 to find any evidence of a robust labor market. But, the fourth quarter of 2002 (the most recent data available) supplies some light at the end of the job-stagnation tunnel for Sanpete County.

By December of 2002, the county's year-to-year employment expansion rate had shot up to 3.6 percent—right up in the moderate-growth range we economists love so much. Will it last? One month does not a trend make and the national economy slipped somewhat during the first part of 2003. However, there are some promising signs.

This isn't a one-industry expansion. While all sectors didn't share the employment joy, the current expansion is very broad-based. Between December

***Seasonally Adjusted Sanpete County Unemployment Rates***

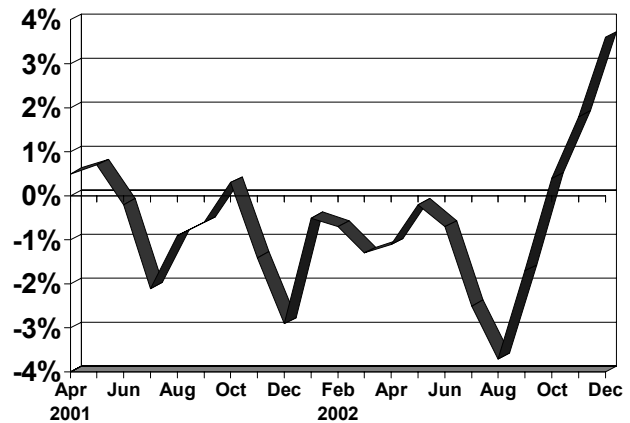


Source: Utah Department of Workforce Services.





## Year-Over Change in Sanpete County Employment



Source: Utah Department of Workforce Services.

# To the Point

**The resurgence of growth in Sanpete County's employment base is a welcome occurrence. However, other indicators appear in a slump. The new job growth could be the beginning of a spate of expansion or just an economic flash in the pan. Next quarter's data will provide more answers on whether Sanpete County's economy has truly turned around.**

2001 and December 2002, Sanpete County added almost 250 jobs, which were spread throughout a number of industries.

All the goods-producing industries—mining, construction, and even manufacturing—actually added employment. These industries are recession-sensitive. The fact that they appear to be expanding is certainly positive. Other industries contributing to the employment gain included retail trade, information, finance/insurance, professional/business services, leisure/hospitality, and higher education. There were job losses in a few industries, but nothing significant.

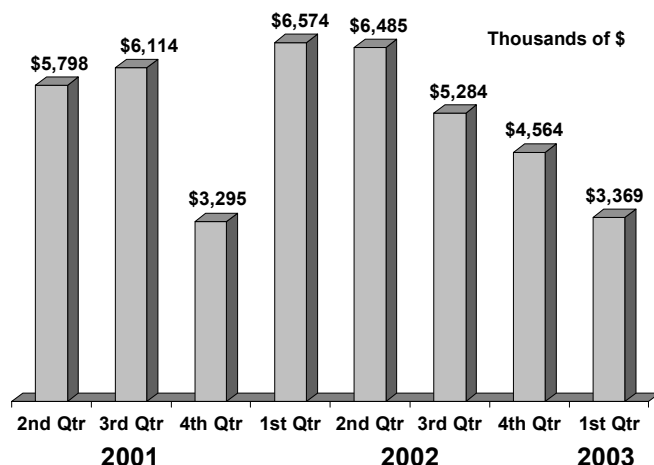
The unemployment rate did spike in early 2003. However, this appears to be a momentary aberration. By April 2003, joblessness was down to a more consistent 6.9 percent.

That rate is still high when compared to state (5.3 percent) and national (6.0 percent) averages. But, that's nothing new for this county where a seasonal economy keeps the rate at a perennially high level. On the bright side, despite lots of employment losses during the past two years, Sanpete County's jobless rate has remained relatively stable. Many Sanpete County workers are employed outside the county, which has kept joblessness lower than one might otherwise expect.

### **Construction Whimpers**

In past quarters, construction has proved one bright spot in an otherwise gloomy economic view. However,

## Total Sanpete County Approved Construction Values



Source: Utah Bureau of Economic & Business Research.

now that employment growth has picked up, construction seems to be ebbing. Between the first quarters of 2002 and 2003, permitted construction values dropped by almost 50 percent. A drop in home-building accounted for most of this decline—the number of new homes authorized dropped almost 40 percent when compared to first quarter 2002.

Construction is a fickle beast. What may seem like a slow start to the year could easily be reversed.

### Sales Slip-Sliding Away

Sanpete County's sales performance left something to be desired. The most recent gross taxable sales data show a fourth quarter 2002 decline of 1.4 percent. A decline in car sales knocked down numbers in retail trade sales, and services sales dipped also.

### Stay Tuned

Now is certainly a time to keep an eye on the Sanpete County economy. The recent expansion in jobs could be short-lived or it could be just the beginning of a resurgence in the county's economic growth.

**Lecia Parks Langston, Regional Economist**  
[lecialangston@utah.gov](mailto:lecialangston@utah.gov), 435-688-3115



## Quick Facts

### April 2003

#### Unemployment Rate

Sanpete County	6.9%
Utah	5.3%
U.S.	6.0%

### Dec 2002 Change from Previous Year

#### Job Growth

Sanpete County	3.6%
Utah	0.2%
U.S.	-0.2%

### 1st Qtr 2003 Change from Previous Year

#### Construction Values

Sanpete County	-48.7%
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### 4th Qtr 2002 Change from Previous Year

#### Sales

Sanpete County	-1.4%
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Source: Utah Dept of Workforce Services,  
 Bureau of Labor Statistics,  
 Utah Tax Commission,

**For more economic information about Sanpete County see:**  
<http://jobs.utah.gov/wi/regions/county.asp>

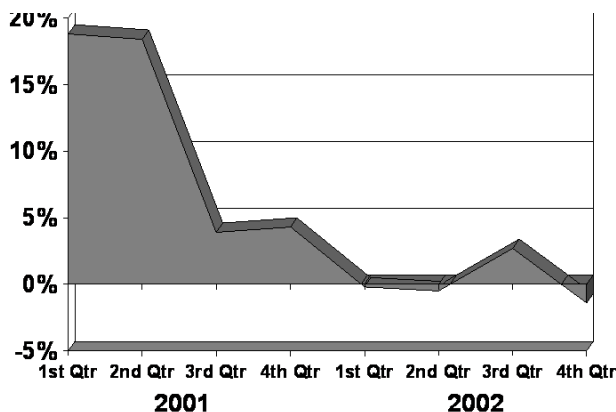
# State of Utah

## Utah Department of Workforce Services

140 East 300 South  
PO Box 45249  
Salt Lake City, UT 84145-0249

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### Year-Over Change in Sanpete County Gross Taxable Sales



Source: Utah Tax Commission.

*The mission of the Utah Department of Workforce Services is to provide quality, accessible, and comprehensive employment-related and supportive services responsive to the needs of employers, job seekers, and the community.*

## What's Up?

- Moroni City, Moroni Irrigation Co. and M&M Irrigation Co. have met to transfer all irrigation shares within the city limits to a new entity, Moroni City Irrigation System (MCIS). All Moroni residents will get their irrigation water from the single new entity.
- Skyline Drive Technology has received 8(a) certification from the Small Business Administration in Washington. As a result of this designation, Skyline Drive Technology will have greater access to federal contracting procurement opportunities

**For more economic events, see:**

<http://jobs.utah.gov/wi/Regions/western/sanpete/sanpeteee.pdf>



03-13WSA-0603

#### Equal Opportunity Employment Program

Auxiliary aids and services are available upon request to individuals with disabilities. Call (801) 526-9240. Individuals with speech and/or hearing impairments may call the state relay at 1-800-346-4128

